

Message Text

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67

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 H-02 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /137 W

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R 151705Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1757

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USDEL MTN GENEVA 5649

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

STR PASS KELLY AND STARKEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: NTM PARENT GROUP MEETING

1. RECENT INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH EC INDICATE EC WILL
BLOCK ANY ACTION BY NTM PARENT GROUP ON ANY PROPOSAL
AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UNTIL SUCH PROPOSALS
ARE CONSIDERED BY GROUP AGRICULTURE.

2. EC (ABBOTT) HAS TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT THE COMMIS-
SION IS NO LONGER WILLING TO LET QUESTION OF MANDATE
OR COMPETENCY OF NTM GROUPS TO PASS WITH NEU-
TRAL STAND-OFF LANGUAGE. IN PAST THEY HAVE BEEN
WILLING TO PASS OVER DIFFERENCES AND CONTINUE WORK IN
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GROUPS WITH THEIR POSITION THAT SUBGROUPS COVER ONLY

INDUSTRY AND OUR POSITION THAT GROUPS COVER BOTH
INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE. EC HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY
CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING NUMBER OF INSTANCES WHEN
AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND US HAVE MANAGED TO INJECT
WHAT EC CONSIDERS PURELY AGRICULTURAL MATTERS INTO DIS-
CUSSIONS OF OTHER GROUPS. EC HAS ACCORDINGLY BEGUN TO
REVERT TO CITATION OF MAY 8 COMPROMISE (MTN/AG/1) TO
ASSERT PRIMACY OF GROUP AGRICULTURE AND WILL DO SO
AGAIN IN NTM PARENT GROUP NEXT WEEK.

3. COMMENT: EC CITATIONS OF MAY 8 COMPROMISE ARE
USUALLY CONFINED TO PARTIAL QUOWATION, I. E. FIRST
SENTENCE OF PARA. 2 OF MTN/AG/1, THUS IGNORING ALL THE
OTHER ELEMENTS OF THAT DOCUMENT AS WELL AS MORE RECENT
AGREEMENT AT TNC LEVEL IN DECEMBER 1975. WE HAVE NO
PROBLEM IN CORRECTING INACCUARACY WHEN EC TAKES THIS
LINE BUT PRACTICAL IMPACT, SO FAR AS NTM PARENT GROUP
NEXT WEEK IS CONCERNED, IS THAT US-EC PROCEDURAL
IMPASSE ON AGRICULTURE MEANS THERE WILL BE
NO AGREEMENT ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES NOT DEALT WITH
MULTILATERALLY, AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL ON ADDING NTM INFOR-
MATION TO THE TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE OR ANY
OTHER PROPOSAL THAT MAY INVOLVE AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS. AS WE SEE IT, ALL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO
AGREE ON AT THIS MEETING IS FUTURE MEETING DATES AND
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SUBGROUP.
END COMMENTCULBERT

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Message Attributes

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